

Where are they now?

The Bond Interviews Frater Lieutenant Colonel Damon Cluck

WHERE ARE YOU ?

Currently stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq. Will be home in December

WHAT IS YOUR RANK?

Lieutenant Colonel

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I am from Piggott Arkansas, I currently live in Sherwood Arkansas.

ABOUT YOUR FAMILY:

My wife, Brenda Cluck is Major in the Arkansas Army National Guard. We have been married since March 2006. We have one daughter, Annabel Lee.

WHAT YEARS YOU WERE IN COLLEGE AND AS A TKE?

1986-1990

WHAT THINGS YOU REMEMBER FROM THOSE DAYS?

Jeff Puryear and I were Pledge Brothers. The TKEs ALWAYS won Finger Bowl, the Student Government President was ALWAYS a TKE and the TKEs ALWAYS had biggest student section at football games. Late Night with the TKEs and of course the Bell! And of course, living with Wally Jackson, Greg Spence, and Brad Poindexter in the Coon Club.

WHAT DOES TKE MEAN TO YOU?

The thing that always impressed me the most about Beta Psi was the amazing diversity of its members. There were true scholars and future judges standing up beside farm boys and agricultural majors. We were the original intergraded fraternity. In the Army we have a slogan about strength through diversity, and Beta Psi was the perfect example of this.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO EVERYONE BACK HERE AT HOME AND WHEN WILL YOU RETURN TO THE STATES:

This is my second deployment to Iraq, the first being in 2004-2005. The difference between the first and second tours is amazing and the improvements are truly dramatic. While there are still many dangers ahead, Iraq is clearly on the road to recovery. The surge gave the country the breathing space to get the economy moving again and the Iraqi people have real hope for their futures. I am lucky to have been stationed in the same area on both tours so I have been able to track the progress of many Iraqi friends and their families. Much of the

population now has more access to utilities, services and education than they ever had in the past. I am proudest of the soldiers that I command. 60% of my battalion was with me on that first tour when the battalion was heavily engaged. These citizen soldiers of the Arkansas Army National Guard have left their home, families and employers twice to answer the nations' call. Between the deployments to Iraq, many of them were deployed to Louisiana from September 2005 to February 2006 in support of Operation Katrina. Another group was deployed from December 2006 until June 2007 on the south west border in support of the Operation Jump Start. They are an amazing group of heroes and they truly exemplify the TKE purpose of service to others.